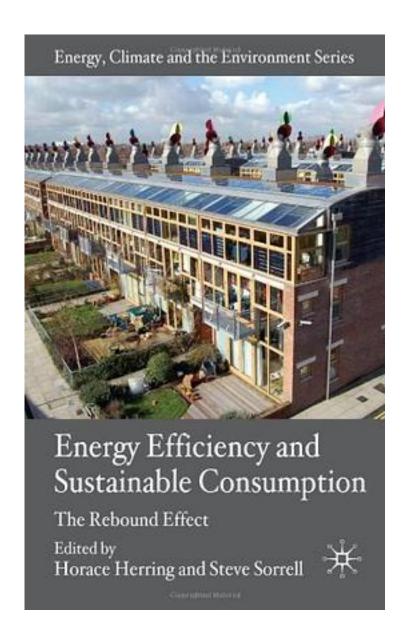
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption



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Most governments seek to improve energy efficiency in order to reduce carbon emissions. But this may not be as effective as is generally assumed. Various 'rebound effects' may take back some or all of the energy savings. It is even possible that improvements in energy efficiency will lead to increases in energy demand over the long term. Encouraging energy efficiency as a means of tackling climate change would then be futile -- rather like a dog chasing its tail. This is the first book to provide a detailed analysis of these rebound effects and to highlight their far-reaching implications for energy and climate policy. It combines economic studies of the rebound effect with broader analyses of the socio-cultural and political implications. Written for researchers, policy makers and environmentalists, the book summarizes the current state of knowledge, presents new research and explores the conditions under which energy efficiency can contribute to sustainability.

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